

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Device for preventing and extinguishing fires in a closed ~~spatial~~target area or in closed sections of a divisible ~~spatial~~area (~~referred to in the following as “target area”~~), having a buffer reservoir in which oxygen-displacing gas is stored under high pressure, at least one supply line system ~~which wherein~~ each ~~ease of said at least one supply line system~~ connects at least one respective extinguishing nozzle with said buffer reservoir by means of a pressure reducing valve, and a controller for controlling said pressure reducing valve in order to introduce the oxygen-displacing gas into said target area gradually as needed, or instantly in the event of fire, wherein one or more inert-rendered levels of reduced oxygen content in comparison to the natural state can be set ~~in~~into said target area, wherein said buffer reservoir is configured as a high-pressure pipe having two opposite head sections and also having a compressive strength of ≥ 200 bar, whereby each head section of said high-pressure pipe has a connection to the respective supply line system.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said high-pressure pipe consists of a fiber-reinforced composite.
12. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said high-pressure pipe has a pressure capacity of 300 to 700 bar.
13. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said buffer reservoir and said at least one supply line system are arranged as a compact module either in said target area itself or directly adjacent said target area.
14. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said buffer reservoir and said at least one supply line system are arranged as a compact module either in said target area itself or directly adjacent said target area.
15. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 12, wherein said buffer reservoir and said at least one supply line system are arranged as a compact module either in said target area itself or directly adjacent said target area.
16. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said buffer reservoir further comprises at least one mechanism for filling or refilling said buffer reservoir with oxygen-displacing gas.
17. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said buffer reservoir further comprises at least one mechanism for filling or refilling said buffer reservoir with oxygen-displacing gas.
18. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 12, wherein said buffer reservoir further comprises at least one mechanism for filling or refilling said buffer reservoir with oxygen-displacing gas.

19. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 13, wherein said buffer reservoir further comprises at least one mechanism for filling or refilling said buffer reservoir with oxygen-displacing gas.
20. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 16, wherein a gas generator is provided to build up the oxygen-displacing gas stored in buffer reservoir which is connected to buffer reservoir by means of said at least one mechanism.
21. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 17, wherein a gas generator is provided to build up the oxygen-displacing gas stored in buffer reservoir which is connected to buffer reservoir by means of said at least one mechanism.
22. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 18, wherein a gas generator is provided to build up the oxygen-displacing gas stored in buffer reservoir which is connected to buffer reservoir by means of said at least one mechanism.
23. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 19, wherein a gas generator is provided to build up the oxygen-displacing gas stored in buffer reservoir which is connected to buffer reservoir by means of said at least one mechanism.
24. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said controller is further provided with an oxygen sensor to measure the oxygen content in said target area and regulate the amount of ~~extinguishing agent~~the oxygen-displacing gas to be fed into said target area.
25. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said controller is further provided with an oxygen sensor to measure the oxygen content in said target area and regulate the amount of ~~extinguishing agent~~the oxygen-displacing gas to be fed into said target area.
26. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 13, wherein said controller is further provided with an oxygen sensor to measure the oxygen content in said target area and regulate the amount of ~~extinguishing agent~~the oxygen-displacing gas to be fed into said target area.

27. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 16, wherein said controller is further provided with an oxygen sensor to measure the oxygen content in said target area and regulate the amount of ~~extinguishing agent~~the oxygen-displacing gas to be fed into said target area.
28. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 20, wherein said controller is further provided with an oxygen sensor to measure the oxygen content in said target area and regulate the amount of ~~extinguishing agent~~the oxygen-displacing gas to be fed into said target area.
29. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said controller is further provided with a fire detection device,~~in particular an aspirative fire detection device.~~
30. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said controller is further provided with a fire detection device,~~in particular an aspirative fire detection device.~~
31. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 13, wherein said controller is further provided with a fire detection device,~~in particular an aspirative fire detection device.~~
32. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 16, wherein said controller is further provided with a fire detection device,~~in particular an aspirative fire detection device.~~
33. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 20, wherein said controller is further provided with a fire detection device,~~in particular an aspirative fire detection device.~~
34. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with claim 24, wherein said controller is further provided with a fire detection device,~~in particular an aspirative fire detection device.~~

35. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said oxygen-displacing gas is a pure inert gas or a mixture of inert gases.
36. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said oxygen-displacing gas is a pure inert gas or a mixture of inert gases.
37. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 13, wherein said oxygen-displacing gas is a pure inert gas or a mixture of inert gases.
38. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 16, wherein said oxygen-displacing gas is a pure inert gas or a mixture of inert gases.
39. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 20, wherein said oxygen-displacing gas is a pure inert gas or a mixture of inert gases.
40. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 24, wherein said oxygen-displacing gas is a pure inert gas or a mixture of inert gases.
41. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with claim 29, wherein said oxygen-displacing gas is a pure inert gas or a mixture of inert gases.
42. (Canceled) ~~Use of a device in accordance with one of claims 11 to 41 in a tunnel.~~